

**REMARKS**

Claims 23-57 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 23, 32 and 45 are amended. No new matter is added by these amendments as support can be found on at least page 4, lines 8-20, and page 10, line 17 - page 11, line 3 of Applicants' disclosure.

Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 4.f., rejects claims 23-25, 28, 30, 32-34, 37, 39, 45-47, 50 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) and 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,725,122 to Mori et al. (hereinafter "Mori"). Additionally, the Office Action, in paragraph 5, rejects claims 26, 27, 29, 31, 35, 36, 38, 40-44, 48, 49, 51 and 53-57 as being unpatentable over Mori and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,704,093 to Kurosawa. The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Office Action, in paragraph 4, indicates that Mori teaches many of the features as recited in the pending claims. The Office Action asserts that there is nothing in the instant claim language which requires the interpretation that a wafer maker receives information from a device maker as Applicants previously argued. Claims 23, 32 and 45 recite "obtaining a specification of a device maker's wafer order, and information of a device manufacturing process from the device maker." In light of the independent claims and the assertions of the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that Mori does not support a *prima facie* case of anticipation for at least the failure to teach the above-quoted feature.

Additionally, the Office Action, in paragraph 4.d., indicates that the Applicants' prior argument that "Mori also fails to teach or suggest the additional step of the wafer maker analyzing that additional information as to the device makers' manufacturing process and apparatus, and using the results of that analysis in combination with the device maker's order specification to select a wafer making process from among plural wafer manufacturing

processes and characteristics, is not persuasive. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that the argument is not supported by the claim language. Claims 23, 32 and 45 recite, "analyzing the information of the device manufacturing process and selecting a corresponding wafer manufacturing process which can manufacture a semiconductor wafer having wafer characteristics determined by the specification and the analysis of the information of the device manufacturing process." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Mori does not support a *prima facie* case of anticipation, based on the assertions of the Office Action and the independent claims 23, 32 and 45.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action fails to assert a *prima facie* case of anticipation, with the applied prior art reference of Mori, for at least the reasons as discussed above. Mori, in any permissible combination with the applied prior art references of Kurosawa fails to overcome the deficiencies as discussed above.

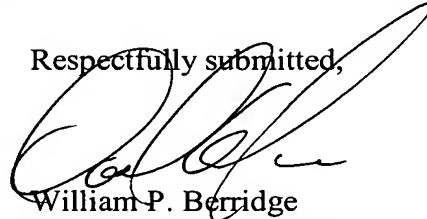
For at least the above reasons, any permissible combination of the applied prior art references cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or even to have suggested, the combinations of all of the features recited in at least independent claims 23, 32 and 45. Further, claims 24-31 and 33-44 and 46-57 are also neither taught, nor would they have been suggested, by the applied prior art references for at least the respective dependence of these claims on allowable independent claims, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the subject matter of claims 23-57 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(a), 102(e) and 103(a) as being anticipated by Mori, or unpatentable over Mori and Kurosawa, are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 23-57 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:  
Request for Continued Examination

Date: November 28, 2006

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